

armies would still receive reinforcements and by their very defeat would learn to fight and to conquer until the foreigners, exhausted and decimated, would have to return to their own territory. And then the roles might possibly be reversed. The Chinese might take a notion to carry the war over to the islands and make it exceedingly unpleasant there. It is true that numbers in modern warfare do not count quite as much as they once did, but a country with hundreds of millions of inhabitants cannot be sliced up very easily.

Japan had better learn a lesson from the wars of Peter the Great with his western neighbor. When first he met his youthful antagonist on the shores of Narva, his numerous hordes were scattered like chaff before the wind, and Charles XII had dreams of dividing the empire between his friends. Time and again the czar rallied his hordes and reinforced them, only to meet defeat before the insignificant army of Swedes. But he carried on the war and at last he found his Poltava where the invaders were routed and the country got rid of the enemies. It took years to accomplish this, but it was nevertheless done, and it was by a persevering policy of resistance and overwhelming numbers that the victory was achieved which established Russia as a great power of the world and saved it from partition. The Chinese, once free from the hated foreign rulers, would be likely to mass themselves around some Peter the Great of their own, and if they do, their sanguine neighbors have but small chance of accomplishing their object.

To have China broken up in fragments would certainly be a great thing to Japan. That would establish the latter country as the first power of eastern Asia, which by the way is the dream of that kingdom. "Japan," said a high official some time ago to a missionary, "has a glorious future. The kingdom of the Rising Sun will yet shine far and wide. The world will see and know that the island empire has a mission as glorious as it is certain." And it is the vision of that coming glory which animates the people to raise their cry: "On to Peking!" as the French once shouted: "A la Berlin!" It is another question, however, how the ascendancy of Japan would affect the interests of the remainder of the world. The powers interested may not object to a little brush between the two countries, but should it go too far, there would certainly be interference and it is not likely that they would allow Japan to acquire the tremendous influence which it would gain by dividing China and virtually assuming supremacy of the whole. Whatever changes the war may bring about, it is, therefore, not likely that the Mongolian empire at this time will be wiped off the map of the world.

A STRAY SHEEP HEARD FROM.

The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* lately had this announcement:

Rev. J. Wesley Hill, D. D., will give his noted lecture: "Four Years Among the Mormons," in Central Park Methodist church Monday evening, Oct. 1. Dr.

Hill is an author of considerable reputation and gives in an entertaining way his thrilling experience in Utah.

The "considerable reputation" which Rev. J. W. Hill enjoys in Utah as a result of his "Four Years Among the Mormons" was won by the skill with which he stole, and palmed off as his own rasping eloquence, the anti-Mormon diatribes of Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage; and the chief of his thrilling experiences was the little episode with the *Ogden Standard*, which paper subjected him to the deadly parallel, branded him as a shameless sermon thief, and roasted him to an elegant brown turn. These incidents may not figure very extensively in Mr. Hill's present lecture, and the *Pioneer Press* may not have heard much about them. But they are interesting matters of history nevertheless, and wherever known they will furnish a delicious spice and sauce to the peculiar repast which Mr. Hill's own record proves him to be fully capable of providing.

A CONFERENCE LESSON.

The sixty-fifth semi-annual Conference which closed Sunday, Oct. 7, will be long remembered as one of the important gatherings of the Latter-day Saints. It has been a time of spiritual enjoyment. Those who attended it will undoubtedly return to their homes strengthened in their resolutions to serve the Lord, and through them the good influence will be communicated throughout all the stakes and wards of the Church, and all will be benefitted to a great extent. The word of the Lord has been given in abundance to the Saints, warning, teaching and admonishing them. Solemnly and impressively, as by inspired men of old, the Prophets of God have declared the eternal truth and pointed out the way of salvation, while songs and hymns of praise and joy have sounded and re-echoed in the hearts of the people and their prayers ascended, as a holy incense in the sanctuary, to the throne of grace.

One feature of the meetings is the earnestness with which the speakers urged upon the people of God the necessity of living pure lives and keeping all the commandments of God, and particularly those pertaining to the Word of Wisdom and tithing. It can scarcely be denied that the world is fast becoming corrupt, its moral atmosphere being impure to an alarming degree. Moral diseases are raging both inside and outside the sacred circle of home, because men disregard laws of nature, the laws of God. Surely, it is of great importance that the Saints should be made aware of this condition of the world and be warned—as they were so bravely, so pleadingly and eloquently—of the curse attending a course in harmony with that of the degraded element of the world. Personal purity in body as in spirit is a condition without which no one can serve the Lord acceptably.

There is a close connection between the duty of observing the Word of Wisdom and keeping the law of tithes and offerings and the necessity of attaining personal purity and holiness. Anybody who supposes he can obtain the latter without ob-

serving the former is likely to be sorely disappointed. A character, too weak to stand the test of personal sacrifice involved in abstinence from the things forbidden and the consecration of a little property to the Lord and the poor, is beyond doubt also too weak to stand the battle against those more subtle temptations to overcome which much strength of will, integrity of purpose, humility and above all a measure of the Holy Spirit in the heart are required. In other words, one who can not master his taste for tobacco, liquor, etc., can probably not regulate any passion that may take hold of his soul. If tempted to anger, he is likely to fall; if tempted to do injustice in trade, or in any dealing with his fellow man, he probably will do it, and so on in every direction where sin is possible. He will follow its allurements, because, being in the habit of yielding in what appears to be small matters, there is no moral strength to withstand in other things. A child who has never acquired any sinful habit is morally stronger than the oldest professor of Christianity who has been overcome habitually by the evil one.

That these laws of God have been so strongly urged upon the Saints at this Conference, perhaps more earnestly than for many years, is a sign that the Lord has great things in store for His people, if they are willing to obey. When the Almighty at the mount in the wilderness told Israel to sanctify themselves it was because He was about to reveal His presence on Sinai, a testimony to the world throughout all ages. In the same way when our Savior told His disciples to hold themselves in readiness in Jerusalem, it was because the outpouring of the Divine Spirit was at hand. In the same way, the preparation of the heavenly bride in the Apocalypse was only a preliminary to the coming of the Bridegroom. Thus it is, that when great events in the spiritual kingdom of God are near at hand, the urgency of preparation for them becomes manifest. We believe that the Saints generally will view the teachings of this Conference in that light and by the grace of God seek the strength needed for a great and thorough reformation in the directions indicated as necessary in order to receive the blessings promised and about to be poured out upon the members of the Church of God.

HONOR THE FOUNDERS!

One of the visitors to Conference, who made a journey of nearly a thousand miles from his home in Apache county, Arizona, is Charles Shumway, over ninety years of age and one of the Utah Pioneers. For eighteen years past he has lived in Arizona, being one of the pioneer missionaries in establishing settlements of Utah people there; for fifteen years previous to his going south he resided in Cache Valley, being an early settler of that region. He was in attendance at the Fair on Children's day, and it is deeply interesting to listen to his comments, because, through his long absence from this city, he naturally contrasts the present with the vision which greeted his eyes in the Salt Lake valley on the Twenty-